



Janna Berard <janna.berard@bonnercountyid.gov>

Comments on proposed changes to comprehensive plan

1 message

'Molly' via Mail-Planning <planning@bonnercountyid.gov>
Reply-To: Molly <yachthalo@yahoo.com>
To: Bonner County Planning <planning@bonnercountyid.gov>

Tue, Aug 2, 2022 at 4:24 PM

See attached.
Marian O'Reilly

 **Comments on Comp Plan 8-4-22.docx**
22K

Comments from Marian O'Reilly, Bonner County Resident and Property Owner on proposed changes to Comprehensive plan, August 4, 2022

Population

The Goal has gone from a value to a process. That doesn't make sense. A "process" is not a "goal." This is a Comprehensive Plan, not merely a Land Use Plan. It guides thinking in making decisions broadly.

School Facilities and transportation

The county **should** involve school districts; That ought to be Shall.

Education investments are too significant and important to relegate to "should" be involved. Taxpayers are significantly charged for schools and their transportation. Coordination must be required.

Policies:

The county ~~shall~~ **should** keep... Don't change shall to should. Just a box to check if 'should' not a real requirement.

All proposed policy changes should be rejected; they are too weak. Education is an economic driver, produces the work force we need and attracts and retains residents who are gainfully employed and pay taxes.

Natural Resources

Keep! Bonner County intends to maintain or enhance its fish and wildlife resource.

This is a key part of our value and importance. It underpins recreation, rural character and once lost is almost impossible to regain. Think Selkirk Caribou if you have doubts about regaining a lost wildlife. Hunting and fishing are essential parts of our life.

~~Watershed and wellhead protection~~ Keep wellhead protection! A resource that's almost impossible to regain and vital for property rights... One person's septic system should not be allowed to infringe on another's source of usable water.

"...standards shall be employed in ~~future~~ land use codes to protect water quality."
Standards should be implemented in current code.

Keep! – "Individual development proposals shall be examined for their ability to preserve water quality."

It's too easy to let a number of proposals slip through and then realize the water quality has been badly compromised because individual developments were not analyzed for their cumulative impact.

Best management practices for waterway setbacks and earth-moving activities and road construction should **shall** be instituted to reduce erosion and sedimentation into waterways. (Change 'should' to 'shall')

Keep: Bonner County recognizes voluntary conservation easements, land trusts and other private and public land conservation programs are important tools to preserve open space and productive forest and farm lands and to protect sensitive areas such as wetlands, floodplains, or critical wildlife habitat. Because Bonner County recognizes the public benefits to the private and public programs, it will provide avenues and incentives for land conservation through its land use ordinances.

Any voluntary agreement by a property owner, whether to sell or donate, is a property right. They are means that property owners who want to preserve our rural character and natural resource value should be encouraged to utilize.

Transportation

Keep existing: Bike and pedestrian trails **need to be included** ~~shall be considered~~ in development proposals to connect the communities with existing and planned bike and walking paths.

"Shall be considered" is not strong enough. That's just a box to be checked. It's virtually impossible to create bike paths or walkways after development has occurred unless they are integral to the original planning and construction.

Recreation Policies

Reject: Under no circumstances, will Bonner County require access easements on private property as a condition of development.

Bonner County may choose not to require access, but we cannot know how the landscape will look in 4-5 years. It's a potential tool that will only be used if there is a lot of public will for it. Do NOT include this sentence. Restricting future commissions is bad policy.